service providers, seeking their expertise and assistance to develop the hydrocarbon finds in Krishna-godavari basin.

(b) Western Geco has already been entrusted with the job of preparing a detailed appraisal plan for the discovered fields and hydrocarbon finds in nomination and NELP acreages of Krishna-Godavari offshore

As ONGC does not have the expertise in developing deep water finds, efforts are on to establish possible tie-ups with reputed international companies for developing the discovered fields and finds.

New technology for ageing oil wells

†1586. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that having become old, several oil wells belonging to public sector oil companies are producing less than their capacity;

(b) if so, the number of such oil wells by December, 2006;

(c) whether new technology can come in handy for increasing production for these oil wells;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether indigenous companies will have to rely on foreign companies for these state-of-the-art technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not achieving success in respective research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Most of the producing fields with public sector oil companies are at the matured level of exploitations and have crossed their plateau period of production and have entered the natural decline phase, which is a common phenomenon in any petroleum producing fields.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

The production of oil depends on the potential of the producing field and decreases from the fields which have crossed their plateau production.

The production rate/capacity of a well are field specific and depends upon the permitted withdrawal which is governed by several factors like available reserve base, drive mechanism, fluid characteristics and reservoir characteristics like porosity, permeability, size, age, depth. As on 31.12.2006, the number of sub optimal performing wells are 927 in respect of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and 20 in respect of Oil India Limited (OIL).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. New technologies are beneficial for increasing production from old oil wells producing sub-optimally. Government monitors periodically the performance of oil PSUs regarding adoption of new technology for increasing production of oil wells through Increased Oil Recovery/Enhanced Oil Recovery (IOR/EOR) techniques. Public sector oil companies are implementing proven new technologies for such wells through various well intervention techniques like drilling of horizontal and multilateral wells through side-track in old wells, workover, stimulation, hydrofracturing, acidisation, etc. to augment oil production, wherever feasible.

(e) and (f) In house capabilities are available with public sector oil companies for inducting advanced technologies in oil servicing operations. However, in certain areas, equipment/services and domain experts and also being hired from outside agencies including foreign companies wherever possible and whenever required to enhance production from the wells. Research on these subjects in the country is an ongoing process. Some of the new technologies implemented/being implemented include;

1. Self Diverting Acid (SDA) for selective acidisation. 2.

Acid/hydro-fracturing

3. Application of gel/polymer technology for profile modification and increased sweep efficiency.

4. Specialized drilling techniques like horizontal drilling, Medium Radius Drain Hole (MRDH)/Short Radius Drain Hole (SRDH) for side tracking, expandable casing, non-damaging mud, activation through surge plug and multilateral drilling, use of LWD, MWD, Auto track and whip stock to improve well productivity.

5. ESP installation at Mumbai High/Heera for higher withdrawal from high water cut wells
6. Intelligent/segmented well completion
7. Multilateral completions of different levels
8. Revamping and de-bottlenecking of surface facilities
9. Deployment of Modular Platform Rigs in Western Offshore for faster liquidation of non flowing wells
10. Rigless coil tubing well interventions.

Oil transportation by Cairn India

1587. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the transportation of oil found by Cairn India in Barmer District of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India has nominated Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), for lifting of crude oil found by Cairn India in the block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer District of Rajasthan. ONGC/MRPL has carried out ROU survey in this regard.

Chairman of ONGC

1588, SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of main qualification being sought by Government to select a candidate for the post of Chairman of ONGC;

(b) the weightage given to integrity and reputation of an applicant for post of Chairman, ONGC;